

## Commander Lowell: Comprehension Questions

1. How do the last three lines of the poem contextualise Lowell's representation of his father?
2. What image of Lowell's mother do we get from stanza 1?
3. How would you describe his tone?
4. Why do you think Lowell makes a reference to Napoleon?
5. How would you describe Lowell as a young boy?
6. How does Lowell deride his father?
7. What is the effect of the pun 'navel'?
8. How is the word 'colony' used?
9. How can the following lines be considered ironic:

"He wasn't at all "serious",/when he showed up on the golf course,/ wearing a blue serge jacket and numbly cut/white ducks he'd bought/at a Pearl Harbour commissariat..."?

10. What ostracised Lowell's father from his peers?
11. What does 'among the seadogs' suggest about Lowell's father's friends?
12. How does Lowell deride his father in stanza 3?
13. What does stanza four imply about the state of Lowell's parent's marriage?
14. Why do you think Lowell makes reference to 1928?
15. How does Lowell praise his father?
16. Do you think the poem is still about Commander Lowell? Why/Why not?



Ma'am, this guy does not know how he feels about his dad...he likes him, he hates him, he derides him, he praises him...

Could we say Lowell is ambivalent in his representation...right?

That's right.